



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lewis and Clark National
Historical Park

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Lewis and Clark National Historical Park News Release

Immediate

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In Their Footsteps The Air Gun of Meriwether Lewis on Brunot's Island

Lewis and Clark National Historical Park is pleased to announce the park's next free guest speaker program. *The Air Gun of Meriwether Lewis on Brunot's Island* will be presented by Dr. William K. Brunot and Michael Carrick at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 16 in the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center.

When Captain Meriwether Lewis left Pittsburgh on August 31, 1803, his crew of 11 included three young men whose identity has been unknown until recently. Who were they? Why did Lewis' party stop that afternoon at Brunot's Island, only three miles downstream, and what happened there? Which Brunot's Island residents were involved in an accident with the air rifle demonstrated by Lewis? New research by William Brunot, a descendant of Dr. Felix Brunot, the island's owner, provides surprising answers to these questions.

Michael Carrick specializes in research and identification of pre-1900 firearms and swords. Mr. Carrick will discuss the innovative air rifle used by Meriwether Lewis and show an air pump and reservoir kit of the type issued to Austrian army soldiers of the period. Lewis likely had a similar kit for his air rifle.

This third Sunday forum is sponsored by the Lewis & Clark National Park Association and the park. These free programs are held in the Netul River Room at the Fort Clatsop Visitor Center.

For more information, call the park at (503) 861-2471.

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